

CONTROLLING A HOME ELECTRONICS SYSTEM

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field Of The Invention

[0001] The present invention relates to a method and apparatus for the control of a home electronics system comprising a plurality
5 of components.

Description Of The Related Art

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[0002] Home entertainment components such as TV, VCR, DVD and audio receiver are sold as individual products. Brands compete on the basis of features and other factors. Products incorporate standardized signal interfaces (RCA, Scart, etc.) to facilitate interconnection between brands. However, each product is essentially controlled as a standalone equipment with its own user interface and, usually, dedicated remote controller. The user of a
15 home electronics system ends up with a host of remote controllers. To control a particular product, the user must locate the correct remote controller and remember which keys to press to invoke the desired function; indeed some functions require more than one product to be set-up, in turn requiring the use of more than one
20 remote controller. Another issue is that as the number of product features increases, the tendency is for manufacturers to use display-based user interfaces so as to limit the number of keys on remote controllers; the result is that individual products (and